



## **Florida House of Representatives**

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Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Update on the Joint Public Hearings on Medicaid Reform**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The Florida Senate and House of Representatives today released additional details for the Joint Public Hearings on Medicaid Reform. Today's announcement accompanies the joint press release on January 27 announcing the public hearings and providing a schedule of the dates, times, and cities where the public forums will take place.

Also included with this release is the text of an opinion editorial that will be provided to local media prior to each public hearing. The text provides helpful information to individuals who are interested in participating in the events.

While changes to the event locations are not planned, the schedule for these hearings is subject to change. Please refer to the Senate and House Select Committees' Web Pages which can be accessed through the legislative Website at [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us).

### **Joint Public Hearings on Medicaid Reform Meeting Sites**

Date: Friday, February 11

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: University of South Florida, Gibbons Alumni Center  
4202 East Fowler Avenue, ALC 100  
Tampa, Florida 33620

Date: Monday, February 14

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Broward County Governmental Center, Room 422  
115 South Andrews Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1817

Date: Monday, February 21  
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Orange County Administration Center  
County Commission Chambers, located on the entry level  
201 South Rosalind Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801-3527

Date: Friday, February 25  
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time  
Location: Gulf Coast Community College  
Student Union East Conference Room, located on 2nd floor  
5230 West US Highway 98  
Panama City, Florida 32401-1058

Date: Monday, March 14, 2005  
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Location Jacksonville, (exact location, TBA)

### **Opinion Editorial by Senate President Tom Lee and House Speaker Allan Bense**

The Florida Legislature is considering ideas to address the future of Medicaid with the goal of ensuring quality of care, improving efficiency in the delivery of services, and facilitating sustainable growth in Medicaid expenditures.

To encourage public participation in the process, the Senate and House Select Committees on Medicaid Reform are jointly conducting a series of public hearings throughout the state.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information from Medicaid recipients, health care providers, and other interested parties who may be affected by changes to Florida's Medicaid program. We need your innovative ideas on how to reduce the rapid growth in Medicaid expenditures while continuing to provide needed services to Florida's low-income, elderly, and disabled. The Committees will also solicit input on the Governor's proposal to reform Medicaid.

The hearings will begin with an overview of the goals of the Select Committees. Members of the public then will be invited to speak. If you want to address the Committees, you will need to sign in before the meeting; doors will open 45 minutes prior to the hearing. Those who do not wish to speak do not need to register.

In order to maximize the opportunity for public testimony, legislators will not take questions or engage in debate during the hearing. Also, the length of time each speaker will be given depends on the number of people who wish to speak. However, written comments and backup material are welcome.

Please remember this is only one of many ways you can participate in the discussion on Medicaid. First, we encourage you to contact your local State Senator and Representative, since it is through them that your voice can most clearly be heard in the Legislature.

You can also find up-to-date information relating to changes to Medicaid on both the Senate and House Select Committees' Web pages which can be accessed through the legislative Web site at [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us).

We hope you will join us at this forum so that together we can ensure the long-term success of Medicaid in Florida.

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